



LEEC

LOUISIANA ENVIRONMENTAL
EDUCATION COMMISSION

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A Weekly Compilation of Environmental Education News from Across Louisiana

LEEC NEWS

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR 2015 ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION STATE SYMPOSIUM

Registration is now open for the 2015 Louisiana Environmental Education State Symposium, to be held February 27-28, 2015 at the Baton Rouge Marriott. The registration form can be found at <http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/symposium-registration>.

Draft Agenda

Friday, February 27, 2015

8:00 a.m. — 3:30 p.m. Short Course Activities* Course times may vary. Descriptions listed below.

5:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m. Registration

6:00 p.m. — 8:00 p.m. Mixer with hors d'oeuvres* and Audubon Bug Tasting, Meet the Exhibitors

Saturday, February 28, 2015

7:00 a.m. — 8:00 a.m. Registration/Continental Breakfast*

8:00 a.m. — 9:00 a.m. Concurrent Sessions

9:00 a.m. — 10:00 a.m. Keynote & Recognitions

10:00 a.m. — 12:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

12:30 p.m. — 1:30 p.m. Lunch* & LEEA Meeting

1:30 p.m. — 2:30 p.m. Concurrent Sessions

2:30 p.m. Grand Door Prize

Meals Provided*

Conference Registration Fees

Early Bird (Before Jan. 23) \$35

Regular (After Jan. 23) \$50

Pre-Service Teacher \$25

Optional Short Course \$10

Short Course Descriptions (courses are subject to change)

LDWF FISHING IN SCHOOLS: Promoting Education Through Fishing

Come gain resources to engage your students in conservation-based education. Learn to use current wildlife biology techniques to teach science and math skills. Participants will gain knowledge of Louisiana fisheries ecology and management through hands on lessons given by Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries biologists. Lesson topics include fish age and growth determination, fish tagging, fish identification, Sport Fish Restoration program information and more. Participants will also get an opportunity to try out fishing techniques. GLE correlated lesson plans and information on the LDWF Fisheries Loaner Kit Program for classroom equipment will be provided.

Grade Levels: 5-12

Location: Waddill Refuge

Presenters : Betsy Seals and Alayna McGarry

EXPLORE THE BIODIVERSITY IN LOUISIANA'S WETLANDS

Spend time learning about the organisms that inhabit coastal Louisiana. Learn how differences in salinity affect habitat biodiversity. This session will visit the USFWS Big Branch Marsh National Wildlife Refuge in Lacombe, LA. Take an airboat ride to see newly rebuilt wetlands. Get wetland lessons and learn more about the Coastal Wetlands Planning, Protection and Restoration Act and the efforts to restore coastal Louisiana and the plants and animals of the ecosystem. Attendees receive lessons related to wetlands plants and animals correlated to current GLEs and materials about common organisms and those on the threatened and endangered species list. Transportation provided from hotel.

Grade Levels: K-12

Location: Southeast Louisiana Refuges Complex, Lacombe

Presenters: Susan Testroet-Bergeron and David Stoughton

LEEC NEWS, CONTD.

WETLAND ANIMALS OF LOUISIANA

Spend the day learning about wetland animals of Louisiana! Get outside and dig deep with unique, place-based lesson plans and materials for grades 3-8. In this session, go on an arthropod adventure, investigate insects, hatch into habitats, follow crawfish around the world, probe into pelican history, and more! Lessons are hands-on, interactive, fun, and best of all, tied to state standards!

Grade Levels: K-8

Location: Hilltop Arboretum

Presenters: Mindy Brooks, Debbie Dornier and Catherine Myrick

BIODIVERSITY CONNECTIONS

Capture your students' interest and make connections through biodiversity. We will explore how we quantify biodiversity, why it is important to us, how we affect it, and actions we can take for positive change. We will practice student activities throughout the day, and will use Louisiana/Gulf of Mexico data to compare local diversity to other ecosystems.

Grade Levels: 5-12

Location: Bluebonnet Swamp

Presenter: Dianne Lindstedt

EXPERIENCE LOUISIANA'S NATURAL HERITAGE

Begin the day with a tour of the LSU veterinary school wildlife rehabilitation facility with the state's wildlife veterinarian, Jim LaCour, and follow that up with a peek inside the LSU Natural History Museum's extensive preserved bird collection (including some rare and extinct species). Finally, end the day exploring lesson plans featuring threatened and endangered species presented by LDWF Natural Heritage Program staff. Transportation provided from hotel.

Grade Levels: K-12

Location: LSU Campus

*Presenters: Jim LaCour, Michael Seymour and
Louisiana Natural Heritage Program Staff*

ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS STUDENT ART AND LANGUAGE ARTS CONTEST OPEN

The LEEC is happy to announce Louisiana's 13th Environmental Awareness Student Art & Language Arts Contest. This year's theme is "Biodiversity in Our World."

Louisiana students ages 5-18 are invited to submit visual or written work centered around the theme. Entries will be judged; winners will receive a cash prize and be featured in our 2016 calendar.

The categories for each entry type are:

Group 1: Contestants ages 5-7

Group 2: Contestants ages 8-10

Group 3: Contestants ages 11-13

Group 4: Contestants ages 14-18

Entries are due by April 25, 2015. Winners only will be notified by email no later than Friday, May 15, 2015. The list of winners for all categories will be posted on the LEEC website.

Prizes awarded to winners in each category:

First Place: \$200

Second Place: \$100

Third Place: \$75

For more information, [visit the contest website](#).



CLASSROOM OPPORTUNITIES

REGISTER FOR YOUTH WETLANDS PROGRAM

The 4-H Youth Wetlands Education and Outreach Program (4-H YWP) is a statewide LSU AgCenter program sponsored by the Louisiana Coastal Protection and Restoration Authority (CPRA). The program is designed to heighten students' awareness of Louisiana's wetland loss through an organized educational program of outreach, empowerment and advocacy.

Program materials – including structured lesson plans and supplies used to teach lessons – are provided at no cost to participating educators. These lessons are implemented throughout the academic year with the program culminating during our promotional week, known as Youth Wetlands Week (YWW). The program curriculum is endorsed by the Louisiana Science Teachers Association (LSTA) and the Louisiana Environmental Education Commission (LEEC,) and lessons are designed to follow Louisiana's Grade Level Expectations (GLEs) and the Common Core State Standards. Pre- and post-tests are completed by participating students, and the results reflect increased knowledge of main science concepts.

For more information, or to register, contact your parish LSU AgCenter Cooperative Extension office or complete the [online registration form](#).

CONTINUING EDUCATION

HYDRIC SOILS TRAINING COURSE

December 2-4, 2014 at the Dalton Wood Auditorium, LSU Energy, Coast & Environment Building

Workshop presentations will:

- Introduce the formation and morphology of wetland soil features
- Outline data collection requirements for proper hydric soil description and identification
- Examine application of hydric soils to state and federal wetland delineation processes
- Demonstrate the use of hydric soils indicators for wetland delineation

Registration Fee: \$500, includes course materials and certificate.

[Online Registration Form](#)

LAGNIAPPE

ENVIRONMENTAL EDUCATION SITE FOR TEACHERS, STUDENTS & PARENTS

DuPont's Clear into the Classroom section of Clear into the Future has resources and funding opportunities for environmental education teachers, games and interactive lessons for students, and additional information for parents.

Visit the site at <http://clearintotheclassroom.com/>.

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